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CPYRGHT

Washington Scene*By George Dixon*

WHEN ANY nonspy phones the Central Intelligence Agency and asks a question, he gets a standard answer—in two parts.

The first part is, "I'll check it out." The second part, which may come anywhere from two hours to two weeks later, is, "I can't talk about that."

An important Senator, who is irritatedly aware of this standard operating procedure, consequently was flabbergasted when he got a two-part answer that was radically different in the second part.

The solon called the office of CIA Director William Raborn and inquired whether Adm. Raborn's predecessor, John A. (Nose) McCone, was still in Washington.

The Senator felt the CIA status quo was admirably intact when he was told, "I'll check it out." But this reassurance was dashed when the Raborn aide called back:

"We can't find out what happened to him."